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FRANK V. CARGILL,  
*Circulation Manager, Hygeia, The  
Health Magazine.*

#### Symptoms of War Gases: Their Treatment.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

September 13, 1940.

*To the Editor:*—Enclosed you will find a chart showing the name and description and giving symptoms and treatment of war gases which has recently been incorporated in the book of instructions for use in the San Francisco Emergency Hospitals.

Central Office, 101 Grove Street.

Sincerely,

J. C. GEIGER, M. D.,  
*Director of Public Health.*

#### Concerning a Letter Received by a California Physician.

The following letter was sent to the California Medical Association central office by a member of the Association:

(COPY)

Palo Alto, California, September 3, 1940.

*To the Editor:*—This letter that I am enclosing has aroused my curiosity. Frankly, I am not at all interested in answering it. I wondered, however, if you could give me any information about the company. It must be a remarkable piece of machinery that can give so much for nothing.

Thank you for any facts you can give me.

Sincerely,

The enclosure letter to which reference was made follows:

(COPY)

Letterhead of Company, etc.

Dear Dr. ———:

We have a very favorable report concerning your standing as a young, progressive doctor, and would like you to serve on the National Advisory Board of a nonprofit Disability Foundation being organized which will have headquarters in your part of the country.

Its purpose will be to pay incomes to individuals who become totally and permanently disabled through any cause, including any accident, any sickness, mental disorders, military service, or invasion. Such protection has been practically unobtainable from insurance companies for some years past.

The protection will be offered by the Foundation as a public service at the lowest possible cost. It is intended to

War Gases			
Name	Dispersed Form	Symptoms	Treatment
LACHRYMATORS (TEAR GASES)			
Acrolein Benzyl bromid Chloracetone Chloracetophenone	Gas Liquid Solid Solid	Profuse lachrymation; smarting and burning pain in eyes; blurred vision; photophobia.	Wash eyes with 1 per cent sodium bicarbonate solution. Dark glasses.
LUNG IRRITANTS			
Phosgene Chlorpicrin Palite Superpalite	Gas Liquid Liquid Liquid	Dizziness; grey cyanosis; marked cyanosis on exertion; coughing; marked dyspnea with bronchospasm; nausea and vomiting; early, intense pulmonary edema; acidosis; unconsciousness; collapse; death from asphyxia.	Bed rest; keep warm; oxygen inhalation; venesection. Morphine for restlessness. Sodium bicarbonate or physiologic salt solution intravenously. Caffeine, metrazol or digitan hypodermically, if necessary.
SENSORY IRRITANTS (SNEEZING OR VOMITING GAS)			
Diphenylchlorarsin	Dust or Toxic Smoke	Violent sneezing; coughing; nausea and vomiting; dyspnea; congestion or edema of lungs.	Irrigate nose and mouth with physiologic salt solution. Rest. Oxygen inhalation, if necessary.
SKIN IRRITANTS AND VESICANTS			
Dichlorethylsulfid (mustard gas) Chlorvinylchlorarsin (Lewisite)	Liquid Liquid	Dermatitis, itching, skin blisters; blindness; blurred vision; sneezing; retching and vomiting; dyspnea; incapacity; restlessness; cyanosis; collapse, shock. Death from asphyxia.	Wash eyes with physiologic salt solution containing 1 per cent sodium bicarbonate. Cleanse skin with bicarbonate solution, followed by application of bleaching powder paste, made with equal parts of water or Chloramin-T, 1 to 2 per cent; rinse skin. Apply benzocaine dusting powder to skin; tannin lotion, if necessary. Treat like burns. Later, treat for lung irritation (see above) and for collapse and shock, if necessary.